THE NEW
West Country Garland.

In FIVE PARTS.

BEING

A Remarkable Account

OF

A Young Orphan's Ramble

INTO A

Foreign Country;

Occaſioned by her Uncle ſtriking her when ſhe came to Viſit him; alſo, the many Difficulties the Uncle underwent till ſhe was found, he being ſuſpected of Murdering her, together with ſeveral other Things as well entertaining as they are true.

1796.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE *New-Weſt-Country Garland.*

PART I.

The young Orphan's Viſit to her uncle.

YOU Fathers and Mothers and Children alſo,
Draw near unto me and ſoon you ſhall know
The ſenſe of my ditty, and I dare ſay,
The like han't been printed this many a day.
'Tis of a young damſel now I do write,
One of a tender age and beauty moſt bright;
But death was ſo cruel, ſevere and unkind
To take the Child's patents, and leave her behind.
Fifteen thouſand pounds in bright ſilver and gold,
Was left to her portion as it was told;
Two Gentlemen guardians were left there in truſt,
To ſee that no man dealt with her unjuſt.
She had a rich uncle, as I have heard ſay,
Both ſhe and her Guardians a viſit to pay.
Did ride to her uncle, as you ſhall find,
The Guardians return'd and did leave her behind.
To ſtay there ſome weeks freſh air for to take,
The Uncle was pleas'd, much of her did make,
She being young and Childiſh her paſſion did move,
Her uncle to ſtrike her ſo great was his love.
A neighbour heard her theſe words for to ſay,
Uncle don't kill me, have mercy, I pray!
He ſtruck her but once and being not uſed to blows,
She thought him unkind and the greateſt of foes.
Next day with fine lockets, and rich garments gay,
And coſtly rich jewels ſhe wandered away;
Well there was no finding her high nor low,
What became of her, anon you ſhall know.

PART II.

The Uncle is Accuſed of Murdering her.

BEING not to be found, her Uncle, he cry'd
And unto the Guardians away he did ride,
In hopes for to find her, ſhe not being there
His grief was increaſed, and the Guardians did ſwear
If ſhe be not found, then the World will all think,
We have Murdered her for the ſake of her chink,
You had beſt go and find her, and that out of hand,
Or your life, Sir, at ſtake, it ſurely will ſtand.
And as they ſtood talking there came in a Man,
Who againſt the Uncle to plead thus Began,
I am thy next Neighbour and heard her to ſay,
Uncle, don't kill me, have Mercy, I pray!
Way then, ſaid the gentlemen, his Neice he has ſlain
And he muſt expect to be hang'd for his pain,
Then unto a Juſtice they went, as its told,
And ſentence was paſt, that Jail ſhould him hold.
But there was a Squire that liv'd in the Town.
Who Body for Body for him would be Bound.
That he might have liberty to ride about,
And ſee if he could this young Orphan find out.
Now mark good people, this Second Part
Will give you to know with an Acking Heart,
Some hundred miles did he ride up and down,
And of his heart's blood ſhe was not to be found.
Tho' Sorrow and Anguiſh then filled his Heart,
With his vail of Tears he was both to Part,
He prized this life as a jewel moſt rare,
And by his contrivance ſtrange things you ſhall hear,
Ten miles from his houſe, as he was ſeen
A Country village he chanced to view,
A girl the moſt like her was then riding thro'
In a ragged apparel, and parents quite mean

Then to this girl's parents, with grief and ſad moan
His heavy condition unto him made known;
He begg'd for the Child, that he longer might live;
And one hundred guineas to them he would give.
When this Child of your's is dreſt in cloaths gay,
Perhaps they will take her for mine that's away,
Then I and my bail ſhall both be ſet free,
And fifteen thouſand pounds her portion will be,
The father ſaid, Sir, I am but poor and bare,
Upon this condition my daughter I'll ſpare,
If ſhe's found the wrong child to have her once more,
The Uncle reply'd you ſhall to be ſure.
In two days after the Guineas were paid,
And in coſtly rich robes the girl was array'd,
In private this Uncle kept her being wiſe,
And tutor'd her up againſt the aſſize.

PART III.

The Nurſe diſcovers the ſham Girl.

AT length the aſſize was come as we hear,
The poor aged Uncle between hope and fear,
He went with the damſel his doom to receive,
To ſee what content ſhe unto him would give.
The word being given they muſt come to the bar,
With a panting heart he then went up with her,
Where ſhe with great boldneſs her part did ſo plead
The Guardians took her to be the Orphan indeed.
The trial being over all things ſeemed well,
But mark once more what the Uncle befel;
There came an old woman, ſhe cry'd, let me ſee,
Whether my young miſs has not forgotton me.
The girl reply'd, woman, I know the not,
If ever I ſaw you beſo,e, I've forgot
Why then, ſaid the woman, aſſur'd now I am
My young miſs is ſlain and you're but a ſham.

Eight days from the time of her birth I am ſhe,
Was ſent for by her Parents her nurſe for to be;
And on her right arm there two moles doth grow,
The truth ſhall be try'd if ſhe have ſuch or no,
The girl bluſhed then and the Uncle he ſhook,
Then hold of this damſel, the Guardians they took;
Search there was made and no moles were found,
This made the old Uncle's grey hairs to hang down
This made him appear like a ſpiller of blood:
They that was for him againſt him now ſtood,
He then took his trial and ſentence was paſt.
That he for the murder ſhould be hang'd at laſt.
Then unto the jail he was hurried with ſpeed,
And in double fetters he was bound indeed.
Now mind how the Lord, who all things doth give,
Ordered this poor innocent man a reprieve.
A noble Knight who thought him wrong we hear
Got him a reprieve for a ſpace of a year:
And before the time was full at an end,
The Lord raiſed up for him a much greater friend.

PART IV.

The Orphan met in a foreign country by a young man.

THERE was a young man, who to ſea had been
And this Uncle's trial by him was then ſeen,
It happened this young man with a pleaſant gale,
Soon after to the Weſt-Indies did ſail.
And as he was walking near the ſtreet
He with this young female chanced to meet;
He ſaid, Well met Lady, what Country I pray.
I was born at England ſhe to him did ſay.
And as they ſtood talking, this young man found,
He and this damſel was born in a town:
And this was that Orphan we talk'd of at firſt,
Who if no more found her Uncle muſt die.

He ſaid, what made you thus to run away,
And from your Uncle and Guardians to go away,
I ſaw his trial, and he is condemned to die,
On hearing thoſe words ſhe wept bitterly.

She crying, by ſad amazing dreams here of late,
I have had account of his ſorrowful ſtate;
I wiſh'd myſelf with him but could not get o'er,
Three gypſies betray'd me to this diſtant ſhore.

Fifteen thouſand pounds is my portion I know,
Three thouſand on you I will freely beſtow,
And if unto England you will me convey,
And make me your bride, then enjoy me you may,

His heart leap'd within him, to hear what was ſaid
Of you, I'll take care, but ſtill I'm afraid,
That when we come to England that ſin called pride,
Will puff you up ſo that I ſhall be deny'd,

Her anſwer was no: I will ſtand to my word,
When I come to England, let fire or ſword,
Deſtroy me at once if I prove falſe to thee,
Who in my diſtreſs has took pity on me.

Then with ſweet embraces and compliments fine,
She to his aſſiſtance herſelf did reſign,
And they came to England, in a week and a day
Before that her Uncle his life down muſt lay.

They went to a priſon the Criminal to ſee,
And there found her Uncle a weeping bitterly:
She ſaid unto him, Sir, what makes you here lie;
He cry'd, for murder, and ſuch a day muſt die.

I am as innocent as the child that's unborn.
To think on ſuch a diſmal death makes me mourn,
She cry'd, forbear weeping, and be of good chear,
Your life will be ſaved tho' the day is ſo near,

I am your Niece whom ſome ſay you have ſlain,
And for you ſome affection in me does remain,
In the Weſt Indies this man met me there,
And I came with him to England your life to ſpare.

These ſweet words made him for to ſmile indeed,
The nurſe and both Guardians were ſent for with ſpeed
And knew her by the marks which they ſaw,
So the Uncle was cleared according to law.
When the day come the Uncle ſhould have dy'd,
The orphan was made the young man's bride,
In a noble manner they all did rejoice,
Both Uncle and Guardians were pleas'd with her choice.
Said the Uncle, this day I thought for to ſwing,
Tranſported with joy, now this ſong I will ſing,
Thro' love and great mercy I am free from death
For which I will bleſs the Lord while I have breath.
He heard my deep groans and reliev'd me at laſt,
My Joys are come and my ſorrows are paſt,
The Lord had great mercy, and ſpeak it I can,
I found but ſmall mercy at the hand of man.

PART V.

Of their happy living and charity to the poor.

FOR ſeveral days this great Wedding did laſt,
I had almoſt forgot to name one of the gueſts,
It is that young creature in rich garments brave,
Who the Uncle had hired his life to ſave.
hundred guineas more the bride her did give,
The which this young damſel did gladly receive;
Now ſhe and her Father who once lived poor,
Thro' one man's grief now poſſeſſed great ſtore.
Fourteen thouſand pound and nine hundred beſide,
The Jolly young man he then got with his bride;
And ſhe a great beauty, which made him to cry,
No mortal, no mortal ſo happy as I.
The faireſt of creatures has made me a man,
Like one in a maze I cannot chuſe but ſtand,

To ſee how providence hath ſmiled on me;
To cheriſh and love her my care it ſhall be.
She cry'd my dear jewel the glittering chink,
Which we may enjoy, may be apt to ſhrink,
And be brought to nothing before its too late,
I hold it wiſdom to purchaſe an eſtate.
To this he agreed, and in few days we hear
They bought an eſtate of five hundred a year;
Now of their abundance this young couple do
Relieve both the widow and fatherleſs to.
In joy and great ſplendor this couple we'll leave
Sweet ſmile from the powers above to receive:
He that us'd the ſeas, wears rich garment gay,
His tarpolin coat he now throws away.

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